

Application No. 10/070,818
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An assembly comprising:

a first object and a second object; and

support means for supporting the first object above the second object, the support means including first, second[[,]] and third protrusions protruding from the first object and first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions protruding from the second object,

wherein each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first object and each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions of the second object have ~~an end with a virtually sphere-segment-shaped extremity~~ a substantially spherically-shaped extremity[[,]] and wherein when the first and second objects are in an operational position so that the first object is above the second object, ~~then the virtually sphere-segment-shaped extremities of the first protrusion of the first object contacts both protrusions of the first pair of protrusions of the second object, the second[[,]] protrusion of the first object contacts both protrusions of the second pair of protrusions of the second object and the third protrusions protrusion of the first object are in contact with the virtually sphere-segment-shaped contacts both protrusions of the~~ extremities of the first, second, and third [[pairs]] pair of protrusions, respectively, of the second object.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremity of each of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first object has a center and together the centers of the ~~virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremities of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first object define vertices of a first triangle.

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Claim 3 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 2, wherein ~~the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremity of each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions of the second object has a center such that midpoints of connecting lines between the centers of ~~the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremities of each pair of protrusions of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions define vertices of a second triangle, the second triangle being substantially identical to the first triangle defined by the centers of ~~the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremities of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first object.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 1, wherein each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first object and each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions of the second object are formed by metal balls, ~~all of~~ the metal balls being partially embedded into either the first object or the second object.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 5, wherein ~~all of~~ the metal balls have a virtually substantially equal diameter.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 1, further comprising fastening means for mutually fastening the first and second objects in the operational position[[s]] thereof.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 7, wherein the fastening means include any one of a screwed connection, a spring, and a magnet.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for supporting a first object on a second object[[,]] ~~the method~~ comprising the steps of:

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making first, second[,] and third indentations in the first object;

subsequently fitting first, second[,] and third metal balls each having a substantially ball-shaped extremity into the first, second[,] and third indentations, respectively, made in the first object, wherein a center of each of the first, second[,] and third metal balls of the first object defines a vertex of a first triangle;

making first, second[,] and third pairs of indentations in the second object;

subsequently fitting a substantially ball-shaped extremity of each of the first, second[,] and third pairs of metal balls into the first, second[,] and third pairs of indentations, respectively, made in the second object, wherein the substantially ball-shaped extremity of each metal ball of the first, second[,] and third pairs of the metal balls has a center and midpoints between connecting lines connecting the centers of each pair of the metal balls of the first, second[,] and third pairs of the metal balls define vertices of a second triangle which is virtually substantially identical to the first triangle; and

placing the substantially ball-shaped extremity of each of the first, second[,] and third metal balls of the first object into supporting contact on the substantially ball-shaped extremities of the first, second[,] and third pairs of the metal balls, respectively, of the second object,

wherein the first metal ball of the first object contacts both of the first pair of the metal balls of the second object, the second metal ball of the first object contacts both of the second pair of the metal balls of the second object and the third metal ball of the first object contacts both of the third pair of the metal balls of the second object.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An assembly comprising:

a first plate supported above a second plate; and

~~supporting members~~ a supporting device configured to support the first plate above the second plate, the ~~supporting members~~ supporting device including first, second[,] and

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third protrusions protruding from the first plate and first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions protruding from the second plate,

wherein each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first plate and each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions of the second plate have ~~an end with a virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ a substantially spherically-shaped extremity, and wherein when the first and second plates are in an operational position so that the first plate is above the second plate, ~~then the virtually sphere-segment-shaped extremities of the first protrusion of the first plate contacts both protrusions of the first pair of protrusions of the second plate, the second[[,]] protrusion of the first plate contacts both protrusions of the second pair of protrusions of the second plate and the third protrusions protrusion of the first plate are in contact with the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ contacts both protrusions of the extremities of the first, second, and third [[pairs]] pair of protrusions, respectively, of the second plate.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 11, wherein the ~~virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremity of each of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first plate has a center and together the centers of ~~the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremities of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first plate define vertices of a first triangle.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 12, wherein the ~~virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremity of each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions of the second plate has a center such that midpoints of connecting lines between the centers of ~~the virtually sphere-segment-shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremities of each pair of protrusions of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions define vertices of a second triangle, the second triangle being substantially identical to the first triangle defined by the centers of the

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~~virtually sphere segment shaped~~ the substantially spherically-shaped extremities of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first plate.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 11, wherein each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third protrusions of the first plate and each protrusion of the first, second[[,]] and third pairs of protrusions of the second plate are formed by metal balls, ~~all of~~ the metal balls being partially embedded into either the first plate or the second plate.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 14, wherein ~~all of~~ the metal balls have a ~~virtually~~ substantially equal diameter.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 11, further comprising ~~fastening member~~ a fastening device configured to mutually fasten the first and second plates in the operational position[[s]] thereof.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The assembly according to claim 16, wherein the ~~fastening member include~~ fastening device includes any one of a screwed connection, a spring, and a magnet.

Claim 18 (canceled)